

WASHINGTON COUNTY (UTAH). COUNTY RECORDER [1325]

DEEDS (SILVER REEF), 1875-1928.

5 microfilm reels

DESCRIPTION: The documents in this series of books, including Deed Record Books J, L, M, P, Q, and S, record the boom and bust of a Washington County mining town. Silver Reef had a population of 1,040 in 1877 and was abandoned by 1900. Deeds in Silver Reef conveyed land, town sites, mines, mills, water rights, and especially mining claims. However, the Washington County recorder originally began using Deed Book J for recording deeds transferring property from one individual to another as opposed to deeds conveying original ownership. These deeds include town lots in several town sites, predominantly Saint George, but also Washington, Harrisburg, Leeds, Middleton and Hebron. In addition to town lots, Book J also includes many mining deeds from the Harrisburg Mining District. Beginning with Deed Record Book L, and continuing in Books M, P, Q and S, these books primarily contain documents pertaining to town lots and mining claims in Silver Reef, but also include some deeds in Leeds and Toquerville. Other documents in this series include homestead and federal land certificates, mortgages, mortgages foreclosures, notices of location, liens, sheriff's and auditor's tax deeds, powers of attorney, estate settlements and occasional maps of mining claims.

Of special interest, Deed Record Books J and L contain articles of agreement for the Grand Gulch Mining Company (of northern Arizona), and Books L and M contain articles of agreement for the Pinkham Mining Company. Deed Record Books Q and S document the liquidation of Silver Reef, as mining companies, saloons, stores and etc., were sold outright. Many of these documents involve the Stormont Silver Mining Company and the Christy Mining Company. After Silver Reef, Record Books S and S 2 were used to record deeds and other documents relating to the Leeds area. Book S covers 48 years and S 1 covers 27 years.

ARRANGEMENT: Deed records are arranged chronologically in the order recorded.

RESEARCH NOTE: In the 1950s the county recorder began consolidating record books by ending separate series of books, and integrating them all into one. As various record books became full, such as deeds for Saint George and deeds for Washington, she continued them in Deed Record Books S 1, S 2 and so forth. The S books continue numerically until eventually the designation of S was dropped. Deed Record Books S 1 and continuing are contained in Official Records.

RELATED RECORDS: Silver Reef is in the Harrisburg Mining District. While these records contain deeds and related documents, nearly all notices of location, verification of labor performed, as well as additional deeds and related documents were recorded by the Harrisburg Mining District recorder in MINING RECORDS, series 23675. Prior to 1875 deeds, land certificates and mining records for this area were recorded in Kane County, and these are included in DEEDS (TOQUERVILLE), series 23265. ABSTRACTS (MINES) series 23670 provide chronological histories of mining activity for each mining claim, as well as reference to relevant documents. Mining records, water certificates and deeds, mortgages, and other documents originally recorded in these books were later recorded in MINING NOTICES OF LOCATION, series 81372, MINING PROOF OF LABOR, series 23671; MINING DEEDS, series 23669; WATER CERTIFICATES AND DEEDS, series 23251; AGREEMENTS AND LEASES, series 84209; and MORTGAGES, series 82705 . Deeds for property in the areas originally recorded in these books were carried forward in DEEDS (SAINT GEORGE), series 23286, DEEDS (TOQUERVILLE), series 23265, and DEEDS (WASHINGTON), series 23262. After the demise of Silver Reef, the books in this series became Washington County OFFICIAL RECORDS, series 7067. ABSTRACTS (TOWNS), series 23555 ; ABSTRACTS (SAINT GEORGE), series 23554; or ABSTRACTS (SECTIONAL LAND), series 16432 contain chronological histories of properties, indicating where relevant documents were recorded. ABSTRACTS (MINES), series 23670 chronologically document activity on mining claims. GRANTEE AND GRANTOR INDEXES, series 82703 and 82704, provide name indexes to documents recorded in this series after 1888.

PROCESSING NOTE: Washington County Deed Records in this series were microfilmed by Utah State Archives in July and August 1973 and processed by Rosemary Cundiff in June 2001.

PREFERRED CITATION: Cite the Utah State Archives and Records Service, the creating agency name, the series title, and the series number.

CONTAINER LIST

| Reel | Description |
|-------------|---|
| 1 | index to Deed Record Book J |
| 2 | Jun 1875-Nov 1876 (Deed Record Book J) |
| 3 | Nov 1876-Jul 1877 (index & Deed Record Book L) |
| 3 | Jul 1877-Jun 1878 (index & Deed Record Book M) |
| 4 | Jun 1878-Apr 1879 (index & Deed Record Book P) |
| 4 | Apr 1879-Sep 1880 (index & Deed Record Book Q) |
| 5 | Sep 1880-May 1928 (Deed Record Book S) |